

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended): An apparatus for blocking the routing of voice calls over an Internet protocol (IP) network when a packet loss measure rises above a threshold, said apparatus comprising:

a terminal configured to transmit voice calls, said terminal being connected to the IP network;

a first processor for collecting data on packet loss for each of a plurality of nonoverlapping time intervals in a current connection path over the IP network;

a second processor for evaluating the packet loss data according to a predetermined algorithm,

wherein said algorithm computes said evaluation of packet loss data for each time interval as a function of the packet loss data for that interval and at least one prior interval,

and further wherein if the results of said evaluation fail to meet a predetermined criterion, future calls over the IP network path are blocked.

2. (original): An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein the functions of the first and second processors are performed by a single processor.

3. (original): An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein the calls over the IP network path are blocked for a prespecified duration.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended): An apparatus as in claim [[4]] 1 wherein the function is a weighted average.

6. (original): An apparatus as in claim 1 in which said blocking is done only if said packet loss data have been collected for a prespecified minimum call duration.

7. (currently amended): An apparatus as in claim 1 in which if in any interval, the collected packet loss ~~datum~~ data exceeds a prespecified limiting value, the packet loss for said interval is represented by said limiting value.

8. (currently amended): An apparatus as in claim 5 in which said weighted average for an interval is the weighted average of the packet loss ~~datum~~ data for said interval and the value of said weighted average for the prior interval.

9. (currently amended): A method for blocking the routing of voice calls over an IP network when a packet loss measure rises above a threshold, said method comprising

the steps:

a terminal transmitting voice calls, said terminal being connected to the IP network;

a first processor collecting data on packet loss for each of a plurality of nonoverlapping time intervals in a current connection over the IP network;

a second processor evaluating the packet loss data according to a predetermined algorithm, wherein said algorithm computes an output for each time interval that is a function of the packet loss data for that interval and at least one prior interval, and

if the results of the evaluation fail to meet a predetermined criterion, blocking future calls over the IP network path.

10. (original): A method as in claim 9 wherein the functions of the first and second processors are performed by a single processor.

11. (original): A method as in claim 9 wherein the calls are blocked over the IP network path for a prespecified duration.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended): A method as in claim ~~12~~ 9 wherein the function is a weighted average.

14. (original): A method as in claim 9 in which said blocking is done only if said packet loss data have been collected for a prespecified minimum call duration.

15. (currently amended): A method as in claim 9 in which if in any interval, the collected packet loss ~~datum~~ data exceeds a prespecified limiting value, the packet loss for said interval is represented by said limiting value.

16. (currently amended): A method as in claim 13 in which said weighted average for an interval is the weighted average of the packet loss ~~datum~~ data for said interval and the value of said weighted average for the prior interval.

17. (currently amended): A method as in claim 16 wherein a fraction α between 0 and 1 is specified, and the weights attached to the packet loss ~~datum~~ data and to the prior weighted average are α and $1 - \alpha$, respectively.

18. (original): A method as in claim 9 wherein data on packet loss are collected simultaneously on multiple connections over the IP network.

19. (original): A method as in claim 18 wherein data from different connections are evaluated separately.

20. (original): A method as in claim 19 wherein the most recently evaluated connection is consulted to determine whether to block calls.

21. (original): A method as in claim 19 wherein an average of evaluations across current connections is consulted to determine whether to block calls.

22. (original): A method as in claim 18 wherein data from different connections are pooled.